Times-Virginian

In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

ESTABLISHED 1892

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TO SAVE CHILDREN'S LIVES

There are certain rules which will save the lives of many American children if parents will follow them.

The death list of children, accidentally killed in the United States, runs to about thirty-eight a day, and many of the fatalities should have been foreseen and could have been prevented by due care.

Hundreds of children are injured, every year, by getting their hands on a knife, a pair of scissors or some other dangerous instrument. Parents, of course, know that little children grab for anything they can reach, and consequently, should understand the importance of putting these dangerous weapons out of their way.

In addition, extreme care should be exercised in connection with anything of an electrical nature. Despite safety devices, damp floors and wet hands make a dangerous combination in connection with anything electrical. Obviously, little children do not know of this peril, and, as a result, a number of them are electrocuted every year.

While it would be cruel to accuse the parents of the victims of criminal negligence, the facts almost sustain the allegation.

Hundreds of children are scalded to death because they could fall into steaming water. Other hundreds are burned to death, and some of them die because they have been permitted to play with matches or left unguarded around dangerous fuels and fires. Additional hundreds die every year because they put something into their mouths that injury them, such as poisonous substances and objects that are swallowed. Moreover, shotguns and other firearms are carelessly left where children can reach them and "play soldier" with fatal results.

It is impossible to call attention to every instance of accidental death that threatens the thousands of American children who will die before reaching maturity. It is likewise impossible to establish rules for parents to follow. Certainly, it behooves Appomattox Parents to act wisely and prudently to prevent their children from succumbing to a peril which could be avoided by the exercise of reasonable foresight.

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THANKSGIVING, 1959

This year Thanksgiving — a national religious festival — is ninety-six years old. It began in 1863 and credit for beginning the observance is usually given to Mrs. Sarah J. Hale.

Less than one month separates Thanksgiving this year from Christmas, which means that these two national religious observances are only twenty-eight days apart. However, Thanksgiving — unlike Christmas — is not so highly commercialized.

Thanksgiving was originally regarded with almost the same reverence as was shown for Sunday. It was customary for families to attend religious services and afterwards to gather around the table and a bountiful dinner, including turkey and pumpkin pie.

In some instances churches were decorated with farm products in order that the members of the congregation might see what they had to be thankful for.

The first Thanksgiving proclamation, issued by any President, came in 1789. When George Washington ordered a day of Thanksgiving for the adoption of the Constitution. President Madison also set a day to give thanks for the peace during 1815, but it was not until the time of Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, that we had a national Thanksgiving proclamation, setting apart the last Thursday in November as a day to be observed.

Our Thanksgiving Day in the United States, then, is relatively young, but it has taken hold more firmly than any other Thanksgiving Day in any other country, and has spread to the various corners of the world.

It is one of our most-enjoyed holidays, a colorful observance and an inspiration. To many Americans it signifies the coming end of the year, the completion of most of the harvesting of the year, the end of the football season and the beginning of several hunting seasons.

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Individuals who set out to reform the human race will be pretty tired before the job is done.

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The Times - Virginian

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH S. FOREMAN

Bible Material: Acts 8.
Devotional Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-20.

The Good News

Lesson for November 22, 1959

IT CANNOT be said too often: Christianity is not an organization, it is not a creed, it is not a set of good resolutions, it is not a special kind of philosophy, it is not ideas. It produces all these, but it does not begin with any of them. It beings with **good news.** We have a first-class case in the story before us in Acts 8. At the turning-point in that story, we are told that Philip "opened his mouth and . . . told him the good news of Jesus." It is not said that Philip opened his mouth and gave the stranger good advice, or condemned his sins, or urged him to turn over a new leaf, or offered him a book to read, or urged him to join a church. He just told the good news about Jesus.

Dr. Foreman

Evangelism Is Good-News-ism

The church today has a technical-sounding big word which many Christians do not understand. It is "Evangelism." When we hear the word, we think of sawdust trails, of mass meetings, of Billy Graham and the Salvation Army and special services at the church on the corner. We think of trained choirs and TV and teams. Like typical Americans, we want our "evangelism" as we want everything else, on a grand scale and organized to the last inch. Actually, evangelism (as Billy Graham or any good minister can tell you) is a simple thing. As a famous Christian leader from Ceylon, D. T. Niles, has said, "Evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where he can find bread."

Some Christian people say they do not believe in evangelism. Push the question with them, and you find out that one or the other of two things is to be true: either they don't understand what evangelism is, or else they don't really believe in Christ after all—they have no good news to tell. There is a good and a bad way to run a newspaper. A critic may not like the way a particular paper is run, but that doesn't mean that newspaper business is bad business.

Philip told his good news effectively, so much so that the name "evangelist" stuck to him. What made him so good at it? He probably never took a "course in evangelism" all his life. For one thing, he was a man sensitive and responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. We first hear of him when the church at Jerusalem is looking for men to appoint on a committee (Acts 6). Qualifications mentioned were that the men should be "men of good repute, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom." (It would seem that being full of the Spirit and of wisdom were not thought of as being the very same thing.) At any rate, by the time the Spirit said to Philip, "Go join this chariot," Philip knew the Spirit's voice. It is not necessary to suppose that the Holy Spirit always speaks, or spoke to Philip then, in a voice you could catch on a tape recorder. The point is that the Spirit's will was made known in Phillip's mind, and Philip knew the difference between God's direction and a notion of his own. How did this man become so sensitive to the voice of God? No doubt because he had been obedient before.

He Knew His Bible

Another reason for Philip's success is his knowledge of his Bible. It was a "rush" thing to do, maybe, for this dusty pedestrian to speak to this Very Important Personage in his chariot. But Philip felt he had the right to speak. When he heard that official reading aloud (for that is what the Greek word in verse 28 means), in his dull treasurer's-report voice, that sublime passage from Isaiah 53, Philip could not hold in. Do you understand what you are reading? he cried. The distinguished stranger was too much astonished to be offended. Here he was, a man of wealth, distinction, power; but this poor hiker had something he did not have: he knew what the Bible has to say, he knew what it means. God used this man, who had the one thing needful, to convert a man who had everything but what he needed. God can always use those who know and love his Word.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

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Washington Notes

BOHLEN RETURNS

Ambassador Charles E. Bohlen has returned from the Philippines and reported to the State Department for his new assignment as special advisor on Soviet affairs.

Bohlen says some progress has been made in negotiations with the Philippine government on revision of the 1947 military bases agreement between the two countries.

COTTON BALE ESTIMATE

An improvement of 109,000 bales during October has raised the government's estimate of this year's cotton crop to 14,801,000 bales of 500-pound gross weight.

The great bulk of the increase over the September estimate was in the Delta states where weather conditions were unusually favorable for maturing and harvesting of the crop.

700 ON GUARD

The Agriculture Department says more than 700 volunteer and professional entomologists are watching for insect pests.

It is largely upon this small army that the Government depends in keeping destructive insects from getting a big foothold and causing widespread crop damage. These entomologists are a part of an insect survey and detection system maintained through Federal and State cooperation.

PAYROLL DROP REPORTED

Another drop in the number of civilian employees on Federal executive agencies' payrolls has been reported.

Senator Byrd (D-Va.) chairman of the Senate-House Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures, says the September total of 2,345,358 marked a reduction of 18,962 from August. He says it is the second successive monthly decline.

AIKEN FAVORS ROCKEFELLER

Senator Aiken (R—Vt.) has gone on record as saying he thinks Governor Rockefeller could defeat Vice President Nixon in a Republican presidential preference primary in New Hampshire.

Aiken, just back form a visit home said that if both the New York governor and the Vice President entered and campaigned in the state, "I think Rockefeller would win."

He added that he thought Rockefeller generally could make a better showing in New England than Nixon.

U. S. MAY CUT ARMS AID

A study is under way in the highest levels of the Eisenhower Administration on whether to cut military aid abroad in order to trim this country's trade deficit, officials say.

The move comes shortly after the Commerce Department reported that henceforth U. S. Development Loan Fund funds can be spent in the nation.

ASIAN TRIP PLANS

President Eisenhower will visit six countries in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Asia before the Western summit meeting next month, according to informed sources.

The President's trip, announced ahead since he took office, will take him to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Pakistan and India. He probably will begin his trip about plans to return to Washington a day or two before Christmas.

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